

MAY 22 2003

PTO/SB/30 (10/2001)

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**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Address to:
Commissioner for Patents
Box RCE
Washington, DC 20231

Application Number 09/506,713

Filing Date 02.18.00

First Named Inventor MIZUTANI

Art Unit 1764

Examiner Name v. Manoharan

Attorney Docket Number 49584 (70904)

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR §1.114

a. Previously submitted

- Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR §1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- Other _____

b. Enclosed

- Amendment/Reply
- Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i) required)

b. Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 CFR §1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. _____

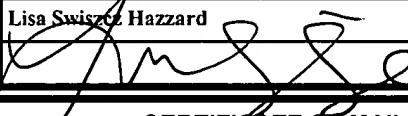
- RCE fee required under 37 CFR §1.17(e)
- Extension of time fee (37 CFR §§1.136 and 1.17)
- Other _____

b. Check in the amount of \$ 860 _____ enclosed

c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

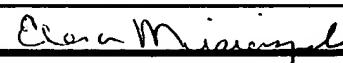
WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print / Type)	Lisa Swiszer Hazzard		Registration No. (Attorney / Agent)	44,368
Signature			Date	May 20, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark

Name (Print / Type)	Elena Misiaszek		
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Date	5/20/03		

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5/28/03

Docket No. 49584 (70904)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: MIZUTANI, et al.

EXAMINER: V. Manoharan

SERIAL NO. 09/506,713

GROUP: 1764

FILED: February 18, 2000

FOR: PERFORATED TRAY WITHOUT DOWNCOMER,
PERFORATED TRAY TOWER WITHOUT DOWNCOMER
AND METHOD OF DISTILLATION

RECEIVED
MAY 23 2003
GROUP 1700

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 20, 2003, 2003.

By: Elena Misiaszek
Elena Misiaszek

Mail Stop RCE
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This application is an RCE of prior U.S.S.N.: 09/506,713, filed on February 18, 2000. Before consideration on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as set forth herein.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3, 4, 7, 9, 10 and 12 to read as follows:

C 3. A perforated tray without downcomer in a perforated tray tower without downcomer;